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4-h forage

Vol. 11

National Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club Camp
Washington, D. C., June 18, 1937

No. 2

ELEVENTH NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CAMP OPENS

The Eleventh National 4-H Club Camp had its opening meeting on Wednesday night, June 16. The entire setting of the meeting was indeed impressive, for, sitting out in the open under a starlit sky, we could see the gleaming Potomac to our right, the Capitol a half mile to our left, the massive Washington Monument to our extreme left, and in the same direction approximately three blocks away lay the White House - the home of the President of the United States.

George E. Farrell, our 4-H camp director, assumed the duties of chairman, and Miss Ella Gardner led us in singing. Director Warburton, of the Extension Service, formally opened the 1937 camp by extending us his greetings and welcoming us to the city of Washington. Following this, all State delegations were introduced by their respective leaders. Forty-two States were represented. Traditions, objectives, and plans of the camp were outlined by Mr. Farrell who then introduced the national 4-H club camp committee. The meeting was closed with a song, and then came taps.

Charles A. Haupt

Alabama.

SECRETARY WALLACE ADDRESSES DELEGATES

The national 4-H camp delegates were introduced to Secretary Wallace at the first morning's assembly. He said the 4-H members attending camp no longer think of themselves as individuals but have come here to consider a national problem. As an individual, he said, nothing can take the place of the "extraordinary uniqueness of you, yourself." This individual expresses itself when the soul and the personality begin unfolding. This is perhaps

expressed in 4-H club work in one of the doctrines, "to do a supremely good job." The eighty or more club leaders here have done a very good job, he said, in helping 4-H club members to develop.

In the old days, he said, when we were busy conquering the soil, the individual was of most importance. Although there is no substitute for individual achievement, it may be hoped that in the future there will be less of this "putting up of one upon a pedestal."

If this country stands for efficient democracy, he thinks it must be placed before the individual. But how to bring to pass an efficient democracy? The best example of an efficient democracy, perhaps, has been county farmers running the job of the Triple-A work.

Democracy cannot be talk alone. Democracy must bring to pass activity. Since the majority brings to pass action, it is also true that the minority is needed continually to question the actions. There cannot be mere talk, for all must act as benefits the general welfare of a nation. The general welfare does not concern farmers alone but also the people of the cities. The county committee Triple-A is for the general welfare; city people must find something similar.

Beginning this eleventh year of the National 4-H camp, the young people are beginning to realize all the things the older people have had to assimilate gradually. Since that is necessary for an efficient democracy it is quite probable that the youth will "take possession of the promised land." In the future, he said, we will cease to take so much pride in beating the other one, but we will all be "proud as we never have before, of the happiness and joy that belongs to us all by right."

Allen Watkin

New York.

I D E A S

In the opening discussion of camp, IDEAS were the central theme. During the course of the discussion it was generally agreed that inheritance of ideas and traditions was responsible for the advancement of rural youth.

Mr. M. L. Wilson, Under Secretary of Agriculture and former county agent in Montana, gave a brief talk and outline to the group so that they might have a general idea of the discussion topic. He explained that this was only an exploration started in the direction of our reasonings.

Mr. Wilson stated that we are living in a generation of exploitation but we do not exploit our resources, at least our natural resources, as much as did our ancestors. The present generation is learning to conserve national resources.

"Making the most of our rural heritage, the subject for discussion during the week, was outlined briefly in the general discussion, as follows: We as farm boys and girls inherit three things--

1. Our bodies.
 - A. They may be changed very little.
 - B. They may be kept in good health.
2. National resources.
 - A. Resources have been exploited but are being conserved by the present generation.
3. Ideas which govern our lives and that form the basis of our civilization.

Ideas which we acquire soon after we are born--

- A. Dignity of Nature.
 1. A great association with Nature.
- B. Opportunity for neighborliness.
 1. No classes or cliques on farms.
- C. Better family life.
- D. Democratic traditions.

Through all these points it was stressed that cooperation was an essential quality.

Bob Shoffner
Kansas.

OUR FIRST MORNING
TOGETHER

The first morning of the Eleventh National Camp was marked with flag raising promptly at 6:45 o'clock.

The ceremony was performed by Tekla Fredsall, of Connecticut; Willis Gaines, of Alabama; John Harber, of Illinois; and Quimby Harris, of New Mexico. Immediately after the group had saluted the flag, we proceeded to breakfast which was served in the cafeteria of the Department of Commerce. This was the first meal that the delegates had had together, and the harmony of the green and white uniforms made a beautiful sight as the campers made their way from the camp, past the Washington Monument, to the Department of Commerce building.

Wilma Jane Albrecht
Oklahoma.

BELTSVILLE FARM

In spite of inclement weather, the 4-H delegates were carried by seven busses out to Beltsville Farm, the National Agricultural Research Center and a part of the Department of Agriculture, Thursday afternoon. This center, covering 14,000 acres, is becoming the largest agricultural research center in the world.

Doctor Reed, Chief of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, met the delegation with a brief talk concerning his particular interest, which is taking the guesswork out of breeding cattle. Hay as a source of vitamins was the topic discussed by Dr. C. A. Cary. Other places of interest on the tour were the wool-scouring laboratory, the animal experiment station where 700 guinea pigs are housed, the meat laboratory where authorities test to see what makes beef-steak tough, the poultry pens which house about 15,000 chickens and about that many turkeys, and the barns for cows, beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats.

That a chicken can live as long as 4 years without its gizzard, that the poorest crop in America is the pasture, and that the Minnesota delegate "knows his grasses" as indicated by the identification contest, are all facts disclosed during the tours over the farm.

A picnic supper for all the delegates and leaders was served on the lawn of the manor house, from which point the vast expanse of the farm was visible.

Because of rain, the evening program was held in the auditorium of the Department of Agriculture with an imaginary outdoor setting. Stories relating to our rural heritage were told by I. T. Bode, extension biologist of the Department of Agriculture. He spoke of the out-of-doors as a part of the rural heritage. "Conservation", he said, "is the taking care, the careful use, and the building up of our great out-of-doors heritage. The pioneers had courage and stamina. We still have courage and stamina as a part of our heritage."

The happiness, inspiration, and magnitude of the out-of-doors were expressed in terms of a fable. A story taught by Indian mothers to their children was read to illustrate love of the out-of-doors. "Farm boys and girls rub elbows with that out-of-doors - a heritage that no city boy or girl gets", Mr. Bode said. "When you see the birds, flowers, insects, think over what they mean to you and get what lessons you can. They are the things that can't be taken from you."

Puck Clapp
Illinois.



.....and that's that

